(c) what special incentives India's latest Exim Policy offers for increasing our exports during 2000-2001 as compared to 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various measures are taken in the Exim Policy for 2000-2001 to promote exports. These include setting up of Special Economic Zones, rationalization of existing Export Promotion Schemes; encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplifications, decentralization in decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government Organisations through the facility of electronic filing of application at several port offices. Further, Government extend support and assistance to trade and industry to attend internationally accepted standards of quality for their products and also to promote the concept of total quality management. A separate chapter on Brand promotion and quality has been included in the Exim Policy.

**Rubber Cultivation in Orissa**

5196. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of land brought under rubber cultivation in the State of Orissa as on date;

(b) whether rubber plantation was affected due to cyclone in 1999;

(c) if so, the steps taken to repair the damage;

(d) whether Government have a proposal to bring additional hectares of land under rubber plantation in the State; and

(e) if so, the target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total area under rubber cultivation in Orissa as on date is 435.46 ha.

(b) Rubber plantations to an extent of about 100 ha. in the districts of Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Khurda were damaged by the cyclone.

(c) Plantations raised from 1993 onwards are covered by Plantation Insurance Scheme and accordingly admissible compensation have been paid to the growers. The plantations raised before 1993 are not covered under the Insurance Scheme. The Board is, however, providing assistance like free

technical support, financial assistance under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme and required planting materials to those growers who are interested to revive the damaged plantations, irrespective of any compensation and subsidies or assistance already received by them.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There are two new proposals for raising 40 ha. each under Block Plantation Project during 2000-01 planting season with active involvement of the State Government.

**Import of Tea**

5197. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from which tea is being imported at present;

(b) the quantum of tea imported during last three years from those countries, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the production of tea;

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction;

(e) the target fixed in that regard for Ninth Plan; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Tea is imported into India from nearly 20 countries of the world. The major countries from which tea are imported and the quantity of tea imported from those countries during the last 3 years are as follows:

(in Mn. Kgs.)

| Countries | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Indonesia | 0.58 | 0.71 | 4.36 |
| Turkey | — | 0.01 | 2.51 |
| Bangladesh | 0.02 | 0.26 | 0.54 |
| Kenya | 0.50 | 0.11 | 0.44 |
| Sri Lanka | 0.02 | 0.25 | 0.39 |
| Others | 0.13 | 1.27 | 0.69 |
| TOTAL: | 1.25 | 2.61 | 8.93 |